



**Humane Voters of Arizona
Phoenix City Council Candidate Questionnaire 2011**

Candidate **Bill Gates**

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Animals play an important role in the lives of many Arizonans, who consistently demonstrate concern for animal protection. Humane-minded citizens of all political stripes care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues. Humane Voters of Arizona (HVA) appreciates your input on this 2011 Phoenix Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Have you ever been involved in any animal protection issues? If so, which ones?

Yes No Comments _____

Do you have, or have you had in the past, any companion animals that have had an impact on you?

Yes No Comments ***I was an only child and had one dog, "Boogie," from age 5 to 17. She was like the sister I never had. She was truly a member of our family. I learned a lot about responsibility taking care of "Boogie" throughout my childhood. As a parent, I have tried to provide that same experience for my daughters who are 10 and 7. Four years ago, Santa Claus brought us "Sugar," a bichon frise, who is loved by the whole family. Just a few weeks ago, we added another dog to our family, "Pickles," a rescue dog who is a shih tzu mix. "Sugar" and "Pickles" get along great and we enjoy watching them play with one another.***

Do you financially or philosophically support any local or national animal protection organizations? If so, which ones?

Yes No Comments ***We have financially supported the Arizona Human Society in the past. Additionally, since I have been on the Phoenix City Council, I have had representatives of several animal protection organizations appear on my tv show on Phoenix Channel 11 and speak at my monthly coffee chats.***

COMPANION ANIMALS AND HOMELESSNESS

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals. The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities.

Would you be willing to work with animal care and control agencies and/or shelters in Phoenix to address problems related to the homeless animal crisis?

Yes No Comments ***I would love to work with local organizations to address the homeless animal crisis. We are proud to have done our small part to address this problem by recently adopting a rescue dog.***

Between 30-40 % of cats that enter shelters in Maricopa County will be euthanized. Those shelters are working with many neighborhoods and a group of non-profits to do Trap Neuter Return of feral cats and to provide low cost and no cost spay neuter services to owned cats.

If elected, would you be interested in learning more about Trap Neuter Return and plans to reduce the number of unwanted cats in Phoenix?

Yes No Comments ***I had a speaker at one of my coffee chats discuss the issue of Trap Neuter Return of feral cats. I would be interested in being updated on this program.***

Would you support a resolution acknowledging the grassroots effort to solve this community problem?

Yes No Comments ***I think elected officials should be talking about this grassroots effort and a resolution would be a great way to raise awareness.***

Thank you for your time. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Humane Voters of Arizona
Email to: HumaneVotersArizona@cox.net